

KATHERINE E. MCCOY

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EDUCATION

2010
(Expected) **Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

- Dissertation Title: *Ready, Aim, Hire: The Political and Social Implications of Military Outsourcing*
- Committee: Erik Wright (Chair), Mark Suchman, Mara Loveman, Pam Oliver, Jane Collins

In this dissertation, I examine the policy of outsourcing key military services to private military corporations (PMCs). Drawing from the Weberian concept of the state, military sociology, and debates on privatization, I develop a model of how the use of such corporations affects state and private actors' accountability over violence. I illustrate these accountability relations using data I collected from over 70 on-site interviews with military contractors, state officials, and civil society representatives in the U.S. and Colombia. I conclude that while states can effectively use PMCs, doing so changes the nature of state violence such that it becomes less beholden to democratic oversight and more susceptible to the influence and agendas of individual officials or agencies.

2003 **M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

- Thesis Title: *Trained to Torture? The Human Rights Effects of Military Training at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, 1960-2000*
- Committee: Mark Suchman (Chair), Jane Collins, Joseph Elder

2000 **B.A., Anthropology and International Studies, Washington University in St. Louis**

- Honors: *Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

AREAS OF INTEREST

Political Sociology; Law and Society; Military Sociology; Peace, War and Social Conflict

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Publications

- 2009 McCoy, Katherine. "Uncle Sam Wants Them" *Contexts* Vol. 8 No. 1 (Winter 2009), pp. 14-19 (cover article in the issue "Who Fights Our Wars?").
- 2005 McCoy, Katherine E. 2005. "Trained to Torture? The Human Rights Effects of Military Training at the School of the Americas." *Latin American Perspectives* 32: 47-64.

Book Chapters

- 2009 McCoy, Katherine. "Yesterday's Civil Warriors, Today's Global Guards: Latin Americans in the Privatized Military Industry" in Antoine Perret (Ed) "*Compañías Militares y de Seguridad Privadas: dinámicas y retos para América Latina*" (*Private Military and Security Companies: Trends and Challenges for Latin America*), Bogotá: Universidad Externado de Colombia, 2009.

In Press

- 2009 McCoy, Katherine E. "Beyond Civil-Military Relations: Civilian Control of a Private, Multinational Force". (Conditional acceptance by *Armed Forces & Society*.)

Submissions Under Review

- 2009 McCoy, Katherine E. "From Pariahs to Professionals: The Evolution of Private Military Corporations from 1970-Today." Under review at *Social Problems*.

Popular (Non-Academic) Publications

- 2004 McCoy, Katherine. "Venezuela: The Pen is Mightier than the Sword" *News Notes* Sept/Oct. 2004, vol. 29, N. 5, page 8. Reprinted on "V-headlines.org" Aug. 30/Commentary (English language news site on Venezuelan politics).
- 2004 McCoy, Katherine. "New Findings Analyze Violations by SOA Grads" *News Notes* May/June 2004, vol. 29, N. 3, page 10.
- 2001 McCoy, Katherine. "Buffalo Soldiers" (Discusses paramilitary assaults on civilians in Colombia). *In These Times*, April 2001.

TEACHING AWARDS AND EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2007 **Sociological Methods, Lecturer**
Sole instructor for two sections of a methods course for sociology majors.
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Spring
2007-
present **Coordinator/Advisor for Undergraduate Research Team**
Select, supervise and mentor undergraduates interested in participating in
research projects. Part of the “Undergraduate Research Scholars” Program.
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Spring
2006, Fall
2006,
Spring 2007 **Racial and Ethnic Movements in the United States**
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Pamela Oliver
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Fall 2005 **Sociology of Law**
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Mark Suchman
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Spring 2005 **Criminal Justice in America**
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Laura Hatcher
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Teaching and Mentoring Awards

- Spring 2009 **College of Letters and Sciences Teaching Fellow**
Awarded annually by the University of Wisconsin’s College of Letters and
Sciences to fifteen out of approximately 1400 graduate instructors. Fellows are
nominated by their department based on their teaching records. Fellows receive a
stipend and design and implement training workshops for new Teaching
Assistants.
- Spring 2007 **Excellence in Teaching Award for a Teaching Assistant**
Awarded annually by the Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-
Madison
- Spring 2007 **Peer Mentor Award**
Awarded by the College of Letters and Sciences and the Graduate Student
Collaborative to graduate students who have been nominated by their colleagues
for excellence in mentorship.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2007 **Grants for Privatization of Security Conference**
Secured \$22,000 to fund the conference, “Privatization of Security and Human Rights in the Americas”. Grant agencies included *Politics & Society*; the Institute for World Affairs and the Global Economy (UW); the Nave Foundation (UW); the Havens Center (UW); and the Global Legal Studies Center (UW).
- 2006 **Law and Society Association’s Graduate Student Workshop Participant.**
Selected to participate in an extensive workshop on professional development and the dissertation process.
- 2006 **Nave Research Grant**
Awarded by the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program to support pre-dissertation fieldwork.
- 2005 **Elise M. Boulding Student Paper Award (Graduate Student Category)**
Awarded by American Sociological Association’s Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict.
- 2002 **Small Grants Award**
Awarded by the Department of Sociology to support research towards completion of the master’s thesis.
- 2001 **Nave Fellowship**
Granted by the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program to support one year of graduate study.
- 2001 **University Fellowship**
Awarded by the University of Wisconsin to support first year of graduate studies.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2009 McCoy, Katherine. “The Law of War in the War over Law: Corporate Mercenary Influence on International Institutions.”
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2008 McCoy, Katherine. “From Pariahs to Professionals: The Evolution of Private Military Corporation from 1970-Today”
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 2008 McCoy, Katherine. “The Role of Nationality in the Private Military and Security Market”
Third Annual Patuxent Defense Forum, St. Mary’s College of Maryland,

St. Mary's City, MD

- 2002 McCoy, Katherine. "The Political Role of PMCs in Different Armed Contexts" Privatization of Security and Human Rights in the Americas Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 2007 McCoy, Katherine. "Las empresas militares privadas en el contexto colombiano" Colombian Working Group on Mercenaries, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2007 McCoy, Katherine. "Las empresas militares privadas: una comparacion de los casos de Colombia y Irak." Special Presentation for the Center on Law, Justice And Society (DeJusticia), Bogotá, Colombia
- 2007 McCoy, Katherine. "The Suicidal Politics of a Colombian Peace Community" Conference on Captivity, Martyrdom, Terror, Performance, & Politics, Sponsored by the Legacies of Violence Research Circle. Madison, WI
- 2007 McCoy, Katherine. "Yesterday's Civil Warriors, Today's Global Guards: Latin Americans in the Privatized Military Industry" LACIS (Latin American and Caribbean Studies) Graduate Student Conference, Madison, WI
- 2006 McCoy, Katherine. "Private Military Corporations and the Law" Law and Society Association Midwest Conference, Madison, WI
- 2006 McCoy, Katherine. "Modern Mercenaries and Human Rights" Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD
- 2005 McCoy, Katherine. "Trained to Torture? Human Rights Effects of Foreign Military Training at the School of the Americas" Social Justice Conference, Madison, WI

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2008 McCoy, Katherine and Amada Benavides (Bogotá, Colombia). "The Privatization of Security and Human Rights in the Americas: Perspectives from the Global South." Organized and acquired funding for a three-day conference which brought together scholars, lawyers, and UN officials from three continents as part of a larger research network on this topic. A follow-up conference was held in Bogotá, Colombia in May 2009.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2008-
Present **A.E. Havens Center for the Study of Social Structure and Social Change**, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Project Assistant
Assist in the day-to-day functioning of the Havens Center. Organize and coordinate stays of Visiting Scholars and help organize conferences that bring together academics, public intellectuals, and national and international activists.
- 2005 and
2002 **Latin American Studies Program**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Project Assistant
Gathered and analyzed data for a successful \$6 million Department of Education federal grant proposal under Title VI. Emphasis on the use of survey data.
- 2002-2004 **Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales (Latin American Institute for Legal Services)**, Bogotá, Colombia (worked remotely from the U.S.)
Translator and Copy Editor
Translated articles from Spanish and Portuguese to English for socio-legal journal “Beyond Law: New Work on Law and Social Change from Latin America and Around the World.”
- 2003 **Silicon Valley Law Project**, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Research Assistant
Principal Investigator: Prof. Mark Suchman
Gathered and coded data on lawyers and law firms in Silicon Valley for a study on the role of the legal profession in the development of the high-tech boom.
- 2000-2001 **Colombia Support Network**
Program Assistant
Developed and coordinated human rights advocacy projects focusing on U.S. policy toward Colombia, South America. Co-led fact-finding delegations of U.S. citizens to Colombia. Duties involved basic research, public speaking engagements, editing quarterly newsletter, coordinating member outreach.

SELECTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

- 2009 **International Peace Institute**
Invited expert participant in a closed-door workshop to advise the UN Working Group on Mercenaries during its official U.S. delegation. Sponsored by the International Peace Institute, New York, NY, July 29, 2009. (Submitted written comments in lieu of attendance.)
- 2009 **Contexts**
Interviewed by Contexts based on my 2009 article. Conducted on March 11,

2009. Podcast available at www.contexts.org

- 2008 **UN Working Group on Mercenaries**
Invited academic expert for the UN Working Group's 4th Session of the Civil Society Consultation Panel, UN Headquarters, New York NY, September 4, 2008.
- 2008 **Wisconsin International Law Students Association**
Invited to speak on the legal accountability of private military corporations for Community Justice Week at the UW Law School, March 6, 2008
- 2008 **Deutsch Welle**
Interviewed by a German radio station for a piece on private military corporations in Latin America. Interview conducted in Spanish on February 6, 2008.
- 2008 **WORT-FM**
Interviewed by community radio station in Madison, WI for "A Public Affair." One hour call-in show on private military contractors. Co-appearance with James Cockayne of the International Peace Institute, January 25, 2008.
- 2007 **Centro Guadalupe**
Invited speaker at a public debate on the School of the Americas. Other participants included local activists and Bishop Morlino, chair of the Board of Visitors of the former School of the Americas. Madison, WI, February 22, 2007.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2008 **Law and Society Association**
Chair for panel on Law and International Human Rights at the Midwest Law and Society Association Retreat. Madison, WI, September 19, 2008
- 2008 **University of Wisconsin Law School**
Discussant for a paper by Jose Luis Gomez del Prado on International Law and Private Military Companies. Part of the UW Law School Series on Law, War and Conflict. Madison, WI, January 31, 2008.
- 2006-2008 **Department of Sociology**
University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Member of the Social Committee. Planned and organized departmental events.
- 2006 **ASA's Section on Peace, War and Social Conflict**
Member of the Elise M. Boulding Selection Committee for best student paper.
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA) sections on:

Teaching and Learning
Political Sociology
Sociology of Law
Human Rights (section-in-information)
Peace, War and Social Conflict

Law and Society Association (LSA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

REFERENCES

Prof. Erik Olin Wright

Vilas Distinguished Professor
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Wisconsin-Madison
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1180 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608)262-0068
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Prof. Mark Suchman

Department of Sociology, Brown University
208 Maxcy Hall
112 George Street
Providence, RI 02912
Phone: (401) 863-2535
E-mail: Mark_Suchman@brown.edu

Prof. Mara Loveman

8112B Sewell Social Science Building
Department of Sociology, University of
Wisconsin-Madison
1180 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
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Prof. Pamela Oliver

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1180 Observatory Drive
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